

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00678 100746Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 /165 W

-----057636 100841Z /10

R 100540Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3246
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0678

TOKYO FOR RFO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PP
SUBJECT: CABINET ENDORSES NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY

1. SUMMARY: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CHAN ANNOUNCED CABINET
ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY MAY 8. OF INTEREST
TO U.S. WERE THREE ASPECTS OF STATEMENT: A) RECOGNITION THAT
EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATORY SPECIES CANNOT BE HANDLED
BY ANY ONE AREA; B) PNG "WILL RESIST INVOLVEMENT WITH, OR
MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO SOVEREIGN
CONTROL OF FISHERIES RESOURCES IN THE 200 MILE ZONE"; AND,
C) GOAL OF UP-GRADING PNG FLEET TO TAKE ALL CATCH AND
EVENTUALLY EXCLUDING ALL FOREIGN FISHERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. JULIUS CHAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR
PRIMARY INDUSTRY, ANNOUNCED MAY 8 THAT THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) HAD ENDORSED A NATIONAL
FISHERIES POLICY. ESSENTIALS OF THAT POLICY FOLLOW:
A) NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL ASSUME FULL CONTROL OF ALL
MARINE FISHERIES RESOURCES IN 200 MILE ZONE.

B) A SYSTEM OF PROVINCIAL FISHERIES COUNCILS AND A NATIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY BOARD WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE FULLEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

C) NEC RECOGNIZED MIGRATORY NATURE SOME SPECIES "PRECLUDES EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT POLICIES BEING FORMULATED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ANY ONE AREA."

D) PROGRAM TO UPGRADE CAPACITY OF PNG FISHERMEN TO CATCH MIGRATORY SPECIES WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. DURING GEARING UP PERIOD, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING FOREIGN FISHERS TO TAKE THESE FISH.

E) NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL LICENSE ALL VESSELS. FOREIGN ENTRY WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY WHEN LOCALS INCAPABLE OF EXPLOITING AND ONLY IN AREAS WHERE THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF DEPLETING RESOURCES. ONCE PNG FISHING FLEET CAPABLE OF HARVESTING ALL FISH, FOREIGN FISHERMEN WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO FISH.

F) IN LINE WITH AUGUST 1977 SP FORUM DECLARATION, PNG WILL RESIST INVOLVEMENT WITH OR MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION. ALSO, PNG " WILL ESTABLISH THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES UNDERSTANDINGS AND TREATIES ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO MANAGE ALL FISHERIES RESOURCES IN THE 200 MILE ZONE..."

3. COMMENT: PROVINCIAL COUNCILS ARE POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR GPNG AS PROVINCES DEMANDING RIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR
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FISHERMEN. ISSUES OF GREAT INTEREST TO U.S., 2C AND 2F ABOVE, DO NOT REPRESENT CHANGE IN POLICY. PNG HAS RECOGNIZED NEED FOR REGIONAL INPUT IN MANAGING MIGRATORY SPECIES BUT HAS OPPOSED MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ON COASTAL STATES. IF PNG, OVER LONG TERM, DEVELOPS CAPABILITY TO HARVEST ALL FISH AND EXCLUDES ALL FOREIGN FISHERMEN, WE ASSUME IT WOULD ULTIMATELY FORCE CONFRONTATION WITH U.S. UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 205 OF MAGNUSON ACT.

4. FULL TEXP POUCHED EA/ANP.
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